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Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 ACDA-05 AID-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCCT-01 DHA-02 OMB-01

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P 131635Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2628
INFO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L FREETOWN 0431

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR AO US SL
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON ANGOLA

REF: (A) STATE 030983 (B) STATE 031037, (C) FREETOWN 250

1. DUE TO CONSECUTIVE TRAVEL UP-COUNTRY BY FOREIGN MINISTER AND ME, AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 13 WAS FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN SECRETARY'S ANGOLAN REMARKS AND UNDERLINE OUR UNCHANGED POLICY AIMS IN ANGOLA (AS PER REFTELS A AND B). IN MAKING EXPLANATION, I EMPHASIZED USG ASSESSMENT OF FUTURE SECURITY SITUATION IN ANGOLA INDICATES EITHER MPLA WILL HAVE TO REACH OUT TO ESTABLISH COALITION GOVERNMENT INCLUDING SUPPORTERS OF FNLA/UNITA OR ELSE SECURITY, TO THE EXTENT IT COULD BE MAINTAINED AT ALL IN THE FACE OF TESTED GUERRILLA EXPERIENCE OF UNITA/FNLA, COULD ONLY BE MAINTAINED BY CONTINUED MASSIVE CUBAN PRESENCE WITH SOVIET ASSISTANCE. USG CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT AFRICA WISHES TO BE FREED FROM NON-AFRICAN INTERVENTION AND WILL PURSUE A POLICY TO SEEK BOTH EARLY COALITION AND COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF CUBA AND RUSSIAN PRESENCE.

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2. MINAH RECALLED HIS STRONGLY FELT VIEWS ON SAME SUBJECT

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AS DISCUSSED IN OUR CONVERSATION JUST PRIOR TO GOSL CHANGE OF POLICY (REFTEL C). MINAH SAID THAT GOSL IN GENERAL AND HE IN PARTICULAR PLACED STRONG IMPORTANCE ON RECONCILIATION ASPECT OF PRESIDENT'S SPEECH ANNOUNCING GOSL RECOGNITION OF MPLA GOVERNMENT. MINAH CONCURRED COMPLETELY IN USG ASSESSMENT AND WAS HOPEFUL THAT GOSL COULD, EVEN IF ONLY IN A SMALL WAY, ENCOURAGE BOTH RECONCILIATION AND COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF NON-AFRICAN TROOPS. HE SAID SOME IN GOSL HAD VIEWED CONGRESSIONAL REFUSAL OF FUNDS FOR USG TO STAND BEHIND FNLA/UNITA AS WIGN OF WEAKNESS, BUT HE AND OTHERS IN POWER STRONGLY APPROVED OUR REFUSAL TO BECOME INVOLVED DIRECTLY IN AN AFRICAN AFFAIR IN CONTRAST TO BEHAVIOR OF RUSSIA AND CUBA.

3. MINAH SAID THAT VISIT TO SL OF GUINEAN COMMISSIONER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS FELLI EARLIER THIS WEEK HAD TOUCHED ON ANGOLA. BOTH COUNTRIES WERE IN AGREEMENT, AND FELLI WAS IN PROCESS OF FORMULATING JOINT STRATEGY WITH NIGERIA AND HAD PLANNED TRIP TO NIGERIA TODAY. (MI AH OPINED THAT NEWS FROM NIGERIA WOULD INDICATE THE TRIP WAS PROBABLY CANCELLED AND QUESTION OF JOINT STRATEGY UP IN THE AIR.) STRATEGY HAD INVOLVED HIGH-LEVEL FMG DELEGATION TO NETO STRESSING NEED FOR BOTH RECONCILIATION AND REMOVAL OF FOREIGN PRESENCE.

4. IN CLOSING, MINAH SEEMED MOST APPRECIATIVE OF USG DESIRE TO KEEP HIM INFORMED OF OUR POLICY. HE SAID THAT OUR SO DOING GIVES HIM ADDED AUTHORITY IN GOSL DISCUSS-IONS, ESPECIALLY WHEN USG POSITION IS SO MUCH IN LINE WITH HIS OWN.

5. DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT LAGOS AS APPROPRIATE.
SAMUELS

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